

MAR 16 2004
OFFICIAL

Applo. No. 09/160,604
Amendment dated March 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 18, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE
TRANSMISSION
TO NO. 703-872-9306

TOTAL PAGES: 14

I hereby certify that this
paper is being facsimile
transmitted to the
Commissioner for
Patents Office
on the date noted below.

Merlyn Stults

Dated: March 16, 2004

In the event that this Paper
is late filed, and the
necessary petition for
extension of time is not filed
concurrently herewith, please
consider this as a Petition
for the requisite extension of
time, and to the extent not
tendered by check attached
hereto, authorization to
charge the extension fee to
Account No. 06-1378.

Attorney Docket No. 980624/LH

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Hitoshi HASHIMOTO

Serial No. : 09/160,604

Filed : September 25, 1998

For : AUTO-FOCUSING APPARATUS
SELECTIVELY OPERABLE IN AN
ORDINARY MODE AND A HIGH
SPEED MODE

Art Unit : 2612

Examiner : Ngoc Yen P. Vu

Confirm. No.: 6549

Customer No.: 01933

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE - GROUP 2800**

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

S I R :

This is responsive to the Final Office Action dated December
18, 2003, the term for response to which expires March 18, 2004.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims
which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.

Enter per RCE 4-7-04